

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Wednesday, December 12, 2012 – 5:30 pm – Downstairs Meeting Room
Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

Meeting Minutes

Present: Michael Nelson, Chair, Jay DiPucchio, Gina McNeely, Director of Public Health

Absent: Christopher Boutwell (arrived late - at approximately 6:43 PM)

Michael Nelson opened the Board of Health Meeting at 5:39 PM

- Review November 2012 Minutes:

Jay DiPucchio motioned to accept the Montague Board of Health minutes for the month of November 2012. Seconded by, Michael Nelson. Motion passes.

- Carolyn Merriam – report on flu clinics

Notes submitted at November 2012 Montague Board of Health meeting but not discussed.

- Director's Report for October and November 2012.

- a) Gina has trained Carolyn on food inspections and she is now out in the field.
- b) Gina did decibel surveys at Simon Stamps and in the Patch neighborhood to get readings.
- c) Kathleen Burek – Animal and Barn inspector working out very well for the department.
- d) Ongoing dishwasher issues at Franklin County Technical High School
Thermolabel procedures used to determine sanitizing and heating temperatures.

Jay DiPucchio motioned to accept the Montague Board of Health Director's reports for the months of October and November 2012. Seconded by, Michael Nelson. Motion passes.

- Board of Health Appointments for 2013.

Jay DiPucchio motioned to appoint all of current Board of Health staff in their current positions. Seconded by, Chris Boutwell. Motion passes.

- 2013 Meeting Schedule.

Jay DiPucchio motioned to accept the Montague Board of Health 2013 schedule as written – the third Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. Seconded by, Michael Nelson. Motion passes.

- Simon Stamps regarding one noise complainant.

Guest(s): Simon Alciere, owner Simon Stamps 320 Avenue A, Dennis Bouchard (G Street) Liz Gordon (G Street)

September 20, 2012 and October 1 2012 Gina McNeely did inspections at the 320 Avenue A location along with gathering data regarding the decibel levels in and surrounding Simon Stamps. The Board of Health has received noise complaints from Liz Gordon on several occasions which have prompted this meeting along with Simon Alciere wanting to share his concerns and what he has done to “be a good neighbor” and remediate the issues at hand.

- Simon Stamps is located in an Industrial zone and look specifically for this local zoning when relocating from Greenfield, MA. A previous business was a drop forged business which dealt with 20 tons of steel being dropped daily that surely

would have affected both the odor/breathing and sound of the surrounding neighborhood.

- The Patch/ G Street is zoned residential.
- Simon Stamps has always been very cooperative and is willing to work with the neighbors and the BOH to remediate the odors and noise issues. He is within his rights not do anything but wants to try and work with the neighbors.
- Simon Alciere has invested both his time and finances to make many adjustments to both the companies venting system and the noise it contributes. To date, there has not been a significant difference to the noise level that you would notice. Simon will continue to modify and work on some other solutions while enlisting some experts in the HVAC and sound fields.
- The decibel reading is not unreasonable for the area. The business is not in violation as it would have to be 10 decibels above an ambient reading.
- Examples of decibel levels would be: a leaf blower is at 110 decibels Simon Stamps noise level is around 47 decibels.
- Example of the odor level is that it is 1/64th of a wood stove scent.
- Dennis Bouchard (resident of Turners Falls for 12+ years) – is hard of hearing, has chronic headaches/brain tumors and the odor from Simon Stamps makes it worst for him. He is pro-business but feels he should be able to enjoy his home and property without the smell. Can't comment on the sound issues (hard of hearing) more concerned with the odor.
- Liz Gordon feels that the noise level will lower her property values and impacts the quality of her daily life.
- Jay DiPucchio suggests a commitment from the BOH and from Simon Stamps to gather information (decibel readings/documentation) and continue to work on adjusting the noise and odor issues as time allows. Jay DiPucchio went on to say that the BOH can only “order” items that are within their jurisdiction. If something further is needed by either party then it will have to be pursued by each of them in a different venue and at a later date.

Jay DiPucchio motioned that the discussion continue at the January 2013 meeting. Seconded by, Michael Nelson

- Brief Board on Aero-Stream technology

There was a failing septic system on 61 Hillside Road in Montague, MA. Kathleen Bridges, R.S contacted Gina regarding this procedure. The Aero-Stream technology has been approved by DEP for remedial use. It is used if the leach field/trenches and a biomat (bacteria bed) are created on the bottom of the septic system which then contributes to the backing up of the system. You can put an aerator inside the system to create an aerobic environment rather than an anaerobic environment which will help the system. With this method the oxygen increases and you mix the contents of the septic tank which in turn reduces the BOD (biologic oxygen demand) by 80-85%. The bio map then starves so that the clog then moves along.

- Outdoor Wood Boiler (OWB's) moratorium.

Jay DiPucchio suggested to the continue discussion at January 2013 meeting due to Chris Boutwell wanting to be part of the discussion.

- Other issues not anticipated within the 48 hour posting period.

- a) Board of Selectman from Sunderland wrote a letter congratulating Michael Nelson on a nice job on Pumpkinfest 2012.
- b) Tobacco questions regarding outdoor workplace. Mary Kersell to attend January 16, 2013 BOH meeting. A public hearing will follow on February 20, 2013.
- c) Town Clerk issued a year-end report regarding public office campaigns. All members of the Board of Health signed off on the paperwork.
- d) EDS plan – maybe utilize Bob Escott and smaller planning groups instead of through MAPHCO.

Michael Nelson motioned to adjourn the December Board of Health meeting. Seconded by, Christopher Boutwell. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned: 7:20 PM

Approved by: _____

Date: _____